(b) and (c) Govt. of India has recently launched a Central Sector Integrated Programme for Development of Horticulture in Tribal/Hilly Areas for implementation in 6 selected districts viz. Bastar (M.P.), Keonjhar (Orissa), Adilabad (Andhra Pradesh), Panchmahal (Gujarat), Ranchi (Bihar) and Almora (Uttar Pradesh) on pilot basis with an outlay of Rs. 14.50 crores for the 9th Plan. At present there is no proposal to include any district of Himachal Pradesh under this pilot scheme.

Pucca Rural Godowns

3542. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposed to set up pucca rural godowns in panchayat level to save crops and other valuables due to frequent natural calamities like cyclone and floods especially in Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) The Central Government under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of construction of godowns, provide financial assistance to State Government/U.T. Administrations, including Eastern States for construction of small godowns upto 2000 MT capacity in the remote, hilly, rural and tribal areas to ensure smooth flow of PDS items to the fair price shops in these areas. The financial assistance is in the form of 50% grant-in-aid (subsidy) and 50% loan. The funds are to be utilised within two years of the date of sanction. Recently, Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 15.40 crores to the Government of Orissa for construction of 96 godowns in cyclone affected areas in the State under the scheme referred to above.

Annual Foodgrains Output

3543. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the annual foodgrains output fall short of the target for the year 1999-2000;